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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

as G. Murphy, *Minister*

H. H. Rowatt, *Deputy Minister*

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON BRANCH

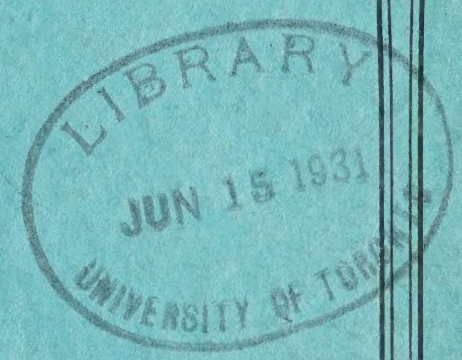
O. S. Finnie, *Director*

REPORT

OF THE

Director of the North West Territories  
and Yukon Branch  
1929-30

(Fiscal year ended 31st March, 1930)







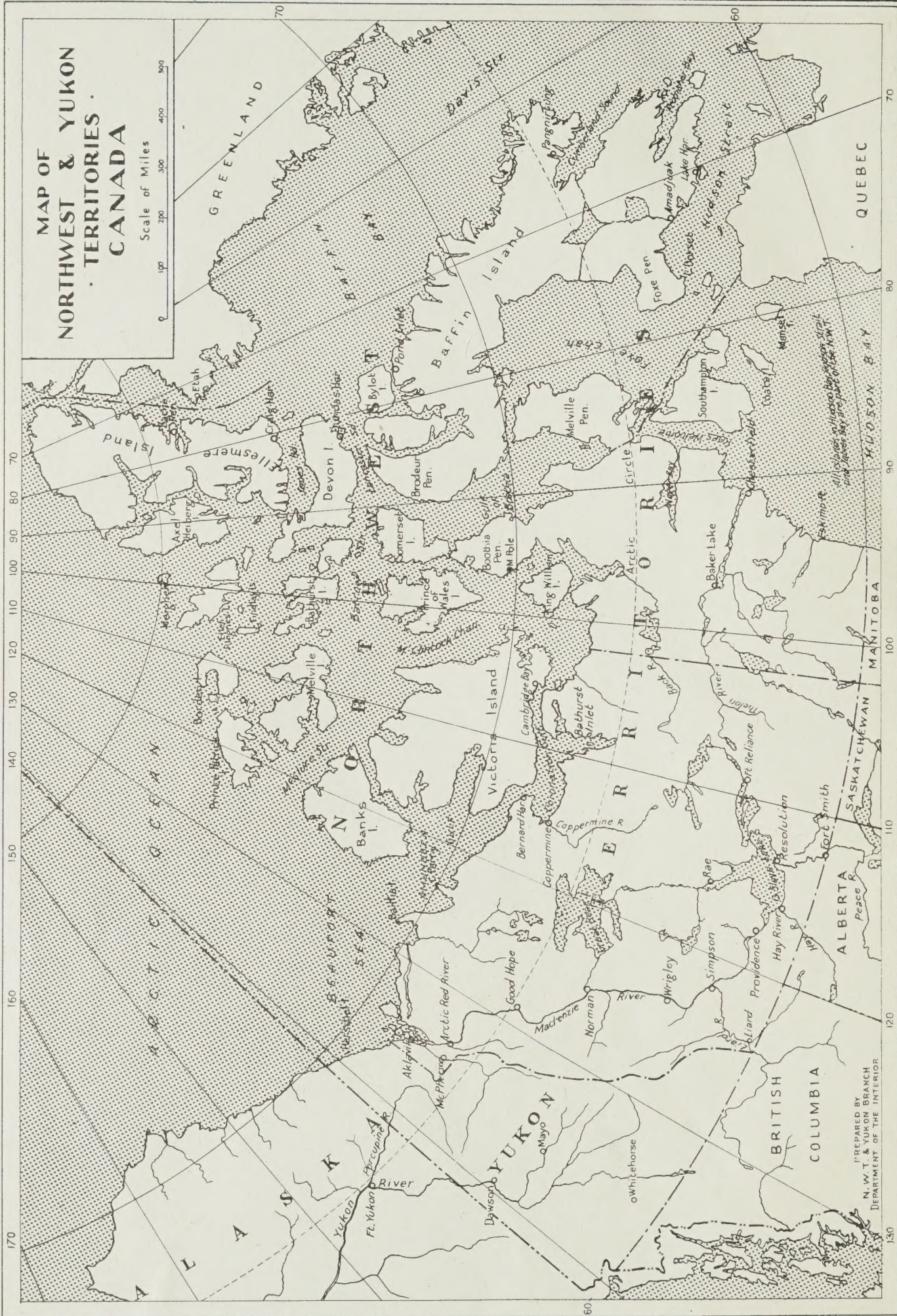
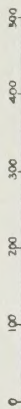






# MAP OF NORTHWEST & YUKON TERRITORIES CANADA

Scale of Miles



PREPARED BY  
N.W.T. & YUKON BRANCH  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HON. THOMAS G. MURPHY, Minister

H. H. ROWATT, Deputy Minister

NORTH WEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON BRANCH

O. S. FINNIE, Director

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REPORT  
OF THE  
Director of the North West Territories  
and Yukon Branch  
1929-30

(Fiscal year ended 31st March, 1930)



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OTTAWA  
F. A. ACLAND  
PRINTER TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY  
1931



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# NORTH WEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, O. S. FINNIE

## GENERAL

Not since the days of the Klondike gold rush has there been so much interest manifested in Northern Canada as during the past fiscal year. Many factors have combined to create this attitude in the public mind. The general northward trend of development has rolled back the Canadian frontier beyond the provincial boundaries. The amazing strides accomplished in the use of aircraft for exploration and mineral prospecting have made possible the reaching of regions heretofore practically inaccessible. The revival of Arctic and Antarctic exploration; the proposals to establish international air routes between Europe and America by way of Greenland and other Arctic islands; and the quest for northern furs, minerals, and other natural resources have aroused a widespread desire for greater knowledge of our far northern possessions.

It is the responsibility of the North West Territories and Yukon Branch to meet the public need in this respect, and to carry out the governmental policy of broader development activities. Its work, consequently, has been greatly increased in scope. In administration, exploration and dissemination of knowledge, the Branch has had an unusually active year. The scope of its work embraces, with the exception of mining, all Department of the Interior matters, pertaining to the Northwest and Yukon Territories.

*Wild Life Division.*—The work of this division is carried on under two sub-divisions. One deals with the administration of the *Northwest Game Act* and the native game preserves, and the other with the administration of the *Fur Export Tax Ordinance*, and the payment of wolf and coyote bounties. A summary of the year's activities in these connections is contained in a statement appearing in the section devoted particularly to the Northwest Territories.

*Lands and Records Division.*—The work of this division has to do with the administration of Crown lands and timber in Yukon and Northwest Territories. A considerable amount of Branch correspondence was handled during the year by this division. Particulars regarding disposal of lands and timber are shown separately for the Northwest Territories and for Yukon Territory, in paragraphs that follow under their respective headings.

*Engineering Division.*—The office work of this division consisted largely of consolidating the field notes obtained by the various explorers and investigators employed in northern research, and the compiling and drafting of maps, charts, sketches, and weather charts for publication. Survey field notes were also calculated, checked, and plotted; buildings and boats were designed and drafted; areas calculated and technical descriptions of lands prepared, including descriptions of the mining divisions of the Northwest Territories. There was also the distribution of maps for publicity purposes, plotting leases and homesteads in Yukon Territory, and the preparation of licences for trading posts and for scientists and explorers, and of commissions for coroners, justices of the peace, and notaries public.

*Supplies.*—During the past year complete building material, equipment and supplies for doctor's residences at Aklavik, Coppermine, and Chesterfield were selected, requisitioned, and shipped. Specially designed boats for northern travel were also secured. Considerable supplies and equipment were furnished to mission schools and hospitals throughout Mackenzie District.

*Library and Museum.*—The Branch is gradually building up a very extensive and valuable Arctic library consisting of books, photographs, coloured



lantern slides, and reels of motion picture film. It is accumulating also a collection of mineral, botanical, and other natural resources specimens drawn from Yukon and the Northwest Territories gathered principally by its own field officers. To this collection are being added many typical specimens of native workmanship—both Indian and Eskimo—in skins of animals, ivory, and other material, as well as relics of early exploratory expeditions and articles of archaeological and ethnological interest.

The library at the end of the year contained about 900 volumes, nearly all relating to Arctic exploration and development. Some of these works are original editions long since out of print and are very valuable and useful. During the year about thirty books were added. The library contains also over 7,000 photographs (of which 1,329 were added during the year), 1,000 coloured lantern slides, and a few reels of motion picture film. One of these reels is a very excellent motion picture of a band of musk-oxen on their native grazing grounds on Devon island, Eastern Arctic. It was secured by the Branch's photographer who accompanied the Annual Arctic Expedition of 1929.

#### FIELD INSPECTION BY THE DIRECTOR

During the year a field inspection of the Mackenzie District and of Yukon Territory was made by the Director of the Branch, Mr. O. S. Finnie. The many changes taking place in the North demand constant revision of administrative matters and policy, and the Director's trip was for the purpose of securing first-hand information of these changes and of discussing personally with various local spokesmen the advantages or disadvantages of certain proposed or requested changes in administration.

The Director left Ottawa on July 13, and travelled by rail via Edmonton, to the end of steel at Waterways, Alberta, thence by steamboat down the Athabaska and Slave rivers to Fitzgerald, from which point a sixteen-mile motor trip took him across the portage to Fort Smith, headquarters for the Government in the Northwest Territories.

*Mackenzie Inspection.*—From Fort Smith Mr. Finnie proceeded down the Mackenzie river by steamboat, visiting all settlements along the way as far as



Plane used by Director in making first flight from Aklavik, Mackenzie river, to Dawson, Yukon river, 24th August, 1929.



Aklavik. At each point of call frank discussions of the merits of new laws and suggested laws were encouraged, and careful notes were made of the suggestions offered by residents.

*Flight from Aklavik to Dawson.*—Having completed investigations in the Mackenzie valley, Mr. Finnie travelled by aeroplane from Aklavik to Dawson where inspection of affairs in Yukon Territory was commenced. This flight was an epochal one in the North, pioneering flying operations between the Mackenzie and the Yukon. The route followed was the old Mackenzie-Yukon route of Klondike days. From the Mackenzie delta the plane flew by way of the Rat river to the Richardson mountains, crossed these mountains through McDougal pass and proceeded down the Bell and Porcupine rivers to Fort Yukon, Alaska, from which place the Yukon river was followed in an up-stream direction to Dawson. The trip was made in a non-stop flight of six and one-half hours. The total distance flown was about eight hundred miles. The significance of aerial transportation in the North may be realized when it is recalled that a month was formerly considered good time for making this trip by canoe and steamboat.

*Yukon Inspection.*—Inspections in Yukon Territory were continued at Mayo, Keno, Carcross, and Whitehorse. Again the aeroplane was used with remarkable time-saving advantages in travelling between Dawson and Mayo, and between Mayo and Carcross. Many matters of vital interest were discussed at points of call.

The Director returned by way of the Pacific coast and Vancouver, reaching Ottawa on September 20. The whole trip involved nearly 9,000 miles of travel.

#### PUBLICATIONS

To meet the demand for information respecting Government activities in the Yukon and Northwest Territories as well as for authentic data concerning resources, climate, and other matters, the Branch issued during the year a number of publications. These, with a single exception, were written by its own officials who have had wide experiences in research and actual field investigations. Included are original reports of specific explorations and field examinations. The publications prepared and issued during the fiscal year were:—

*Yukon—Land of the Klondike.*—A 48-page, profusely illustrated booklet, with cover in colours, setting forth the attractions of the Yukon as a tourist objective and summarizing its resources. (Two editions).

*The North West Territories, 1930.*—A 137-page pamphlet with illustrations and maps, being a concise compendium of the Department's latest information on the extent, topography, population, resources, climate, transportation facilities, and Governmental organization of the Northwest Territories.

*Reindeer Grazing in Northwest Canada.*—A 46-page pamphlet, with illustrations and map, being the report of an investigation of pastoral possibilities in the area from the Alaska-Yukon boundary to the Coppermine river.

*Southern Baffin Island.*—A 130-page pamphlet, with illustrations and maps, being an account of exploration, investigation and settlement during the past fifty years on the southern part of Baffin island.

*Discovery of the Breeding Grounds of the Blue Goose, 1929.*—A short account, illustrated, of the discovery of the breeding grounds of the blue goose on Baffin island.

*Coronation Gulf Copper Deposits.*—A short report, illustrated, of an inspection during the year 1928-29, of the known mineralized areas in Coronation Gulf and Bathurst Inlet districts.

*Preliminary Report on the Aerial Mineral Exploration of Northern Canada.*—A 32-page pamphlet, with illustrations and maps, dealing briefly with the aerial



operations of 1928 and 1929 and the added knowledge of the country obtained through these activities.

*Regulations Respecting Game in the Northwest Territories.*—A 44-page pocket bulletin containing information respecting game laws, wolf and coyote bounties, and the fur export tax.

These publications have proved exceedingly popular. A 15,000 edition of the Yukon booklet was quickly exhausted and a second edition of 15,000 was issued. Many requests were received for more complete reports of field investigations and the preparation of a number of these was begun.

In addition to the above mentioned publications, a number of articles dealing with explorations and developments in the North were prepared for publication in various scientific journals and for lecture purposes.



Mass in centre is nugget of native copper weighing approximately six hundred pounds, found on Husky creek about five miles from its confluence with Coppermine river.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

### NORTHWEST TERRITORIES COUNCIL

*Personnel of Council.*—The Northwest Territories Council is constituted as follows:—

Commissioner—W. W. Cory, C.M.G., Deputy Minister, Department of the Interior.

Deputy Commissioner—R. A. Gibson, Esq., Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of the Interior.

Members of Council—Charles Camsell, LL.D., Deputy Minister, Department of Mines; O. S. Finnie, B.Sc., Director, North West Territories and Yukon Branch, Department of the Interior; H. H. Rowatt, Esq., Dominion Lands Board, Department of the Interior; D. C. Scott, Litt. D., Deputy Superintendent General, Department of Indian Affairs; Colonel Cortlandt Starnes, Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

*Meetings of Council.*—During the year seven meetings were held. At these a number of important matters were dealt with, including the redrafting of the game regulations, the consideration of grants for the protection of native orphan children and for assisting the carrying on of hospitals and schools, the establishment of permanent radio stations, and the organizing of a system of fire-



ranging and game protection by wardens. New ordinances concerning the fur export tax, legal time zones in the Territories, and Eskimo ruins were passed, and careful consideration given to the draft of the Revised Ordinances of the Northwest Territories.

#### ANNUAL ARCTIC EXPEDITION

The annual patrol by ship to the Arctic archipelago was carried out. The expedition sailed on the ss. *Beothic* from North Sydney, Nova Scotia, on July 20, having on board 44 persons in all, 36 officers and crew and 8 members of the expedition. In addition to the usual quota of supplies for the northern posts the ship carried building material for the construction of a residence and warehouse for the medical health officer at Chesterfield.

*Members of Expedition.*—The members of the expedition comprised Mr. G. P. Mackenzie, Officer in Charge; R. S. Finnie, Secretary; Mr. P. A. Taverner, Ornithologist of the National Museum staff; Dr. H. A. Stuart, Medical



The *Beothic* lying offshore while supplies are being unloaded at one of the Government Posts in the Arctic archipelago.

Officer of the Department; and four constables of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, going North to relieve others coming out at the end of their tour of duty. Captain E. Falk, was Ship's Master and Captain L. D. Morin was Ice Pilot.

*Call at Godhavn, Greenland.*—The expedition reached Godhavn, North Greenland, on the morning of July 27. Godhavn, the capital of North Greenland, is an interesting settlement. The Danish officers here extended every kindness and courtesy to the members of the expedition. Acting Governor Berthelsen with Mrs. Berthelsen and other prominent Danish officers conferred with the Officer in Charge on matters of mutual interest in the North, and dined on the ship. A continuous show of moving pictures taken on the previous voyage of the *Beothic* was given for the entertainment of the members of the colony.

*Supplies Landed at Dundas Harbour.*—The expedition left the same evening for Dundas harbour, the next port of call. The ice conditions in Baffin bay were more favourable than in former years so that, without undue incident, the anchor was dropped in Dundas harbour at 11 p.m. of the 30th. All were well at the post. It was learned that Inspector A. H. Joy, had made this detachment his headquarters for the year. On March 12, accompanied by Constable Taggart and the Eskimo, Nookapiungwah, he had left on a long patrol to Melville island and had not since been heard from. The Inspector, however, had left word at the post that if he had not returned to Dundas Harbour



at the time the ship arrived he would be either at Craig Harbour or Bache Peninsula.

*Moving Pictures of Musk-oxen.*—By noon of July 31 all freight was landed and departure was taken for Craig Harbour. As the weather was fine and clear, on coming into Jones sound it was decided to proceed to cape Sparbo on the north side of Devon island for the purpose of securing moving pictures of musk-oxen known to be in that vicinity. At 7.30 on the morning of August 1 the anchor was dropped five miles off cape Sparbo, which is as near as a ship can approach on account of dangerous shoals. A party went ashore in the motor-boat and pictures of the musk-oxen were secured.



Musk-oxen on Devon island photographed by Canadian Arctic Patrol, 1929.  
North West Territories and Yukon Branch.

*Supplies for Bache Peninsula Landed.*—On the evening of the same day the expedition reached Craig Harbour, only to learn that Inspector Joy and his party had not reached that post. Departure was taken immediately for Bache Peninsula. An effort was made to take the ship through Glacier strait, only to find the eastern end of the strait blocked with ice, necessitating returning and going around the southern side of Coburg island. Much heavy ice was encountered in Smith sound south of the Cary islands. North of these islands, however, more open water was encountered until in the vicinity of Rice strait, when very heavy ice was again met with.

The anchor was dropped in Fram haven in the early morning of the 3rd. Inspector Joy and party, as well as Corporal E. Anstead and the two constables of the Bache Peninsula detachment, were here awaiting the arrival of the ship. All were well. The inspector had made a very successful patrol. The police reported that ice conditions in Buchanan bay were such that it would be impossible to reach the post with the ship. An investigation by the ship's officers confirmed this view. It was, therefore, decided to land the supplies for Bache Peninsula at cape Rutherford, which is on the south shore of Buchanan bay and about twenty miles from the post. The transfer of the supplies by motor boat, if conditions later in the season permitted, and if not, by dog-team in the winter, presented no very difficult problem for the police at the detachment, well equipped as they are with both means of transport.

All supplies were safely landed and the anchor weighed in the early morning of the 4th. The return was made around the north of Pim island. Fog and ice conditions made the passage across to Etah difficult. It was the intention to land here Dr. H. K. E. Krueger and his assistant, Mr. A. R. Bjare. Dr.



Krueger is a distinguished German scientist who, by arrangements previously made, was transported on the *Beothic* from Godhavn to Etah. The few native families that usually make their headquarters at Etah had gone south to Robertson bay. Dr. Krueger and his assistant were, therefore, put ashore at Nerk settlement in Robertson bay on the afternoon of the 4th, and departure was taken immediately for Dundas Harbour.

*Return to Pond Inlet.*—The passage south to Dundas Harbour was rendered particularly difficult because of dense fog and snow squalls. Dundas Harbour, however, was safely reached at noon on the 6th. Shortly after midnight the ship was again under way for the next port of call, Pond Inlet, which port was reached at midnight of the 7th after a rather stiff contest with the ice in Eclipse sound. All were well at the post. Unloading was started shortly after the anchor was down and was carried on with considerable difficulty on account of the ice which was then moving in great quantities down the inlet to the open sea.

*Southern Baffin Island Posts Visited.*—Departure was taken for River Clyde the evening of August 8. Almost continuous fog and very severe ice conditions for the first hundred miles south of Pond Inlet made progress slow. Numerous polar bears were seen on the ice in this vicinity, but the atmospheric conditions were such that only fair moving pictures were secured. The ship arrived at River Clyde at noon of the 10th and left again at 5 p.m. of the same day for Pangnirtung.

In making the voyage south from River Clyde it was necessary to go more than one hundred miles off the coast to avoid very heavy ice nearer the land. On the morning of the 12th the pack was cleared, but heavy ice was met again at the entrance to Cumberland gulf. Only scattered ice was in the gulf, however, and without much delay on this account the expedition arrived at Pangnirtung at 4.30 p.m. of the 13th. All were well at the post. Unloading was started the same evening and was finished at early morning of the 15th.

Departure was taken immediately for Lake Harbour. A southeast gale created a very heavy sea which breaking over the ship smashed two of the boats used for landing cargo. Because of the fog conditions it was not possible to get an observation or bearing after leaving Pangnirtung until off the Hudson strait where a bearing was obtained from the direction finding station at Cape Hopes Advance. Advantage was thus taken of this wonderful aid to modern navigation. The anchor was dropped at Lake Harbour at 4.30 p.m. of August 17 and unloading was started immediately. Everything was landed and departure taken for Chesterfield inlet at 2.30 p.m. of the 18th.

*Call at Chesterfield.*—No ice of any consequence was encountered on the run to Chesterfield. A thick fog necessitated anchoring off Chesterfield for twenty-four hours before it was deemed safe to attempt an entrance to the harbour. The anchor was dropped at 10 a.m. of September 2. All freight was landed by the afternoon of the 3rd and departure immediately taken for Lake Harbour. Mr. W. H. B. Hoare, investigator for the Department, was taken aboard at Chesterfield.

On arrival off Coats island, the weather being fine, the Officer in Charge and party went ashore in the motor boat in the vicinity of Cary's Swan Nest. Several hours were spent in this part of the island securing specimens of vegetation with a view to assisting in determining the suitability of this island for reindeer.

Mr. J. Dewey Soper, investigator for the Department, joined the ship, according to arrangements previously made, off the entrance to Lake Harbour. The voyage was continued on to Resolution island, where the Department of Marine and Fisheries was establishing a direction finding station. The ss. *Armora* and the ss. *Sambro*, carrying equipment and supplies for that work, were at anchor at Acadia cove and Captain Hearne of the *Armora* came out in a launch to pilot the *Beothic* through the very narrow entrance to the harbour.



*Return of Expedition.*—At 5 p.m. of August 28 departure was taken for Port Burwell and because of the very thick fog in the strait it was not possible to make the harbour until 11 a.m. of the 29th. The freight for the post was quickly landed and the start on the last leg of the voyage home made at 7 p.m. of the same day. The last few days of the voyage home to North Sydney were uneventful, that port being reached at 9.30 a.m. of September 3.

#### FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

*Continuation of Previous Year's Work.*—On April 1, 1929, the Branch had in the field the following investigators,—Messrs. L. T. Burwash, G. H. Blanchet, W. H. B. Hoare and J. Dewey Soper. Mr. Burwash had wintered on King William island and Boothia peninsula where he had been carrying on work in connection with magnetic observations and Eskimo investigations. Mr. Blanchet had wintered at Tavane on the west coast of Hudson bay, having been attached



Roman Catholic hospital at Chesterfield under construction, 1930.

as observer to one of the aerial mineral prospecting parties investigating Keewatin District. Mr. Hoare had spent the winter in Thelon Game Sanctuary making investigations respecting musk-oxen and caribou, and Mr. Soper had wintered on Foxe peninsula where he had carried out extensive topographical surveys and wild life investigations.

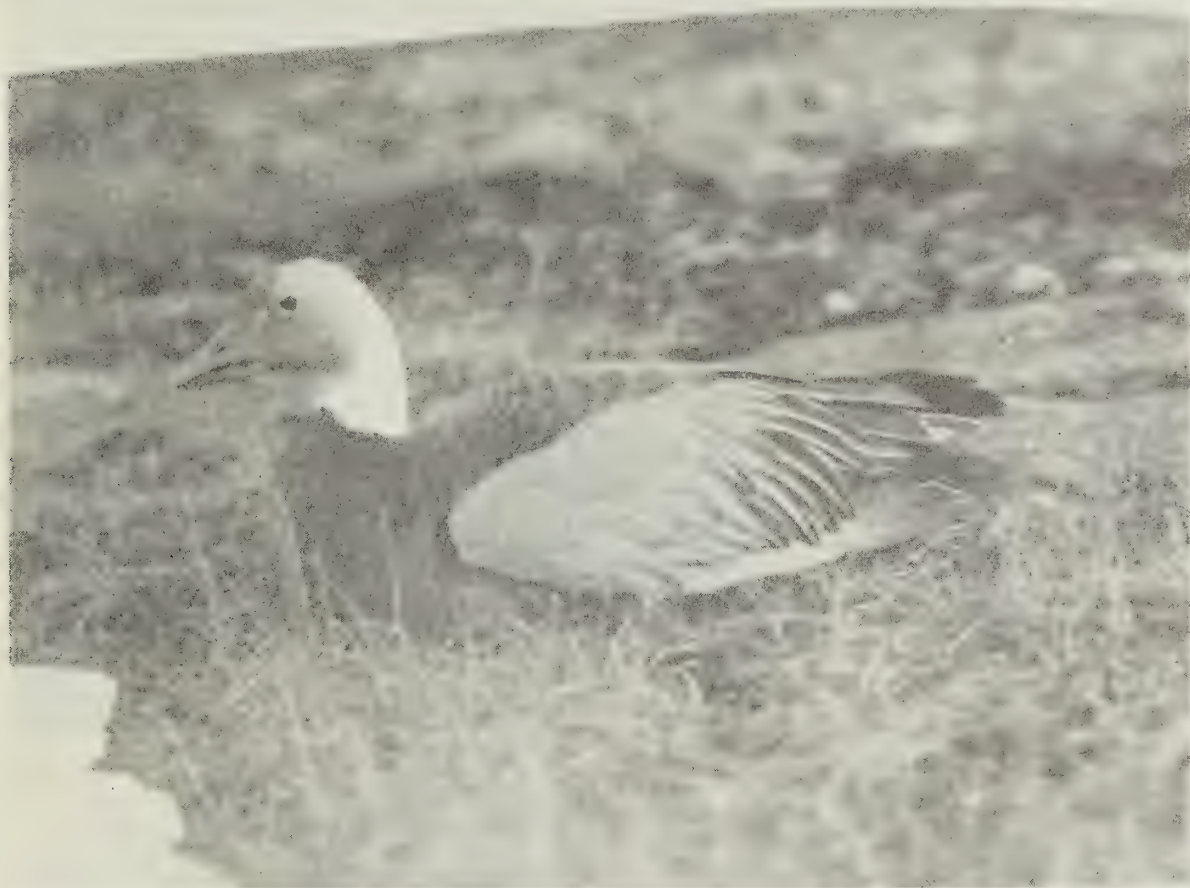
*Investigations by Mr. L. T. Burwash.*—On April 1, 1929, Mr. Burwash who had wintered in the field continued his investigations in the vicinity of King William island. During April a trip was made from Gjoa haven to the magnetic pole where observations for magnetic declination, vertical dip, and total intensity were made. Other magnetic observations were made at Kent bay, cape Victoria, and Oscar bay. On May 17 the winter camp at Gjoa haven was abandoned and a trip by dog-team was undertaken with Coronation gulf as its objective. Wilmot island, which lies in the easterly section of Coronation gulf, was reached on June 16 where an examination of the copper-bearing rocks in this area was completed. A trip covering the known mineralized areas of Coppermine river was made and several deposits of native copper were examined.



*Investigations by Mr. G. H. Blanchet.*—During the years 1928 and 1929 Mr. Blanchet was in Keewatin District making special investigations in connection with the mineral explorations being carried on there by a number of private companies. During the winter of 1929-30 he prepared reports on his investigations.

*Investigations by Mr. W. H. B. Hoare.*—During the spring and summer of 1929, Mr. Hoare completed his investigations in the Thelon Game Sanctuary. He then travelled to Chesterfield, where he met the ss. *Beothic*, carrying the annual Arctic expedition of the Department of the Interior, and returned by it to Ottawa.

*Investigations by Mr. J. Dewey Soper.*—On April 14 Mr. Soper completed his program of surveys of Foxe peninsula and returned to his headquarters at Cape Dorset. On May 17 he set out from Cape Dorset in search of the breed-



Blue goose on nest. The nesting ground of the blue goose was discovered in 1929 by J. Dewey Soper, of the North West Territories and Yukon Branch, and is located near Bowman bay, on Baffin island.

ing grounds of the blue goose, which, after many days' hard travelling, he was successful in discovering. The location of these grounds is near Bowman bay on Baffin island, and their final discovery solved a problem which has long baffled ornithologists. Returning to Cape Dorset, an additional voyage of 365 miles was made to connect with the ss. *Beothic*, on which Mr. Soper returned to Ottawa.

*Investigations of Mr. A. E. Porsild.*—During June and July, Mr. Porsild, special investigator for the Branch, made a botanical examination of Charlton island in James bay, part of Akimiski island, and parts of the Twin islands, with a view to ascertaining wild life conditions.

#### FIELD SURVEYS

*Surveys by Mr. F. H. Kitto.*—During the summer Mr. F. H. Kitto, D.L.S., was sent to Charlton island, James bay, to make a settlement survey at House



point, where, for over 200 years, the deep sea-going vessels of the Hudson's Bay Company have discharged their cargoes. A tract of land extending along the shore for a distance of about a mile on either side of the landing place and having an average depth of about half a mile was surveyed out into eight lots, and a small piece of land used as a burying place was posted out as a cemetery.

*Surveys by Topographical Surveys Branch.*—By request, the Topographical Surveys Branch made a number of surveys along the Mackenzie river. At Fort Smith the hill road was surveyed to the waterfront and a number of subdivisions were made in the settlement. Retracements and subdivisions were made at Good Hope and McPherson. A settlement survey of the entire Arctic Red River settlement was completed and a lot for a cemetery was laid out at Aklavik.

#### FIELD MEDICAL SERVICE

*Pangnirtung.*—Dr. L. D. Livingstone, Chief Medical Officer of the Branch, who was in residence at the Pangnirtung medical headquarters, returned to Ottawa in the fall of 1929 on the ss. *Beothic*. He was replaced by Dr. H. A.



Medical officer and party starting out on patrol from Pangnirtung, southern Baffin island, to Pond Inlet, 800 miles to the north.

Stuart, who will have charge of medical affairs on Baffin island. Extensive patrols made by both Dr. Livingstone and Dr. Stuart brought them in contact with nearly all the natives of the Eastern Arctic. The general health of the Eskimos was found to be good and their living conditions satisfactory. Numbers of patients were given medical treatment and considerable surgical work was performed at headquarters.

*Aklavik.*—The medical station established by the Branch at Aklavik was in charge of Dr. J. A. Urquhart throughout the year. Owing to the lack of a suitable boat for summer travel, the medical officer was unable to cover as much territory as desired, but several winter patrols were made by dog-team. Arrangements have been perfected for the supplying of a suitable boat. Aklavik station serves particularly the needs of the Mackenzie Delta Eskimos and the few Indians that inhabit that region. The general health of the natives, both Eskimo and Indian, was somewhat better than during the previous year and no epidemics of any sort occurred in the district.

*Establishment of Medical Station at Coppermine.*—During the year a medical base was established at the mouth of the Coppermine river, and Dr. R. D. Martin was appointed to take charge of it. This base is designed to serve



the natives of Coronation gulf, those westward as far as the territory served by the Aklavik depot, and eastward as far as circumstances permit. Materials for the necessary building, medical equipment, and supplies were shipped from Vancouver by the Hudson's Bay Company's ship, the *Baychimo*, and were safely delivered. Dr. Martin reached the Coppermine on August 23, and immediately took charge of the erection of a house and warehouse which were completed by the middle of October. Several patrols were made during the fall and winter by dog-team, and a number of natives were given attention.

*Establishment of Medical Station at Chesterfield.*—During the year arrangements were perfected for the establishment of a medical station at Chesterfield in Keewatin District. The construction of a doctor's residence was commenced under a contract. In March, Dr. L. D. Livingstone, Chief Medical Officer, who was selected to supervise the opening of this station, left Ottawa by train for Churchill from which point he proposed to travel by dog-team along the coast to Chesterfield.

*Co-operation with the Department of Indian Affairs.*—By a co-operative arrangement with the Department of Indian Affairs, three medical officers of that department act also as medical officers for the North West Territories and Yukon Branch. These officers were stationed at Fort Smith, Resolution, and Simpson.

*Assistance to Mission Hospitals.*—Financial assistance and medical supplies were given as usual to the hospitals that are maintained by the Anglican and Roman Catholic missions at Fort Smith, Hay River, Simpson and Aklavik. All hospitals were in charge of trained nurses.

#### VITAL STATISTICS

The Director is the Registrar General of Vital Statistics and is responsible for the recording of births, marriages, and deaths for the whole of the Northwest Territories. It is satisfactory to note that the last fiscal year compares very favourably with other years, as regards the general well-being of the native population.

#### FORT SMITH AGENCY

*District Office.*—The local office at Fort Smith was in charge of District Agent J. A. McDougal. His duties included those of Mining Recorder, Dominion Lands Agent, Crown Timber Agent, Superintendent of Wood Buffalo park and Chief Fire Warden. He also acted as Postmaster under the Post Office Department and had charge of wharves and aids to navigation for the Department of Marine and Fisheries.



The waterfront at Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, which is the head of 1,400 miles of unrestricted navigation by river and lake to the Arctic ocean. The steamers shown here are loading for the first trip of the season and it is interesting to note that the auxiliary schooners in foreground are for delivery to Eskimos of the coast.



*Wood Buffalo Park.*—The District Agent, in his capacity as Superintendent of Wood Buffalo park, has a staff consisting of a park warden and twelve game wardens.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTHWEST GAME ACT

Because of the length of time involved in receiving returns at Ottawa from outlying trading posts, it is impossible to compile complete statistics of the fur trade for the past fiscal year for inclusion in this report. The fur returns for the fiscal year 1928-29 are given below, but, unless specifically stated otherwise, the general information refers to the fiscal year ending March 31, 1930.

The fur returns for 1928-29 showed a further slight decline in several species of fur bearers. There was, however, a marked increase in the number of muskrats taken. This, together with the increased value of the pelts of other animals, accounts for an increase in the value of the total yield by over \$100,000 as compared with the value of the fur yield of 1927-28. The following statement shows the number of pelts secured during the licence year 1928-29:—

STATEMENT of pelts of fur-bearing animals traded under licences, or surrendered for bounty or under special regulation, during the licence year 1928-29, in the Northwest Territories.

	Mackenzie District	Keewatin District	Franklin District	Total
FUR-BEARERS				
Bear, black.....	133	3	11	147
" grizzly.....		1		1
" not specified.....	17	1	1	19
" white.....	23	73	127	223
Beaver (traded).....	806	164		970
" (surrendered under special regulation).....	2,391			2,391
Coyote.....	59			59
Ermine.....	15,611	24	13	15,648
Fisher.....	85			85
Fox, blue.....	64	11	34	109
" cross.....	777	35	5	817
" not specified.....	17			17
" red.....	1,611	71	17	1,699
" silver.....	85	4		89
" white.....	6,125	4,617	1,803	12,545
Lynx.....	1,085			1,085
Marten.....	8,251	34		8,285
Mink.....	3,695	69		3,764
Muskrat.....	247,958	20	103	248,081
Otter.....	215	7		222
Skunk.....	17		26	43
Wolverine.....	159	21	3	183
Wolf (traded).....	96	82	7	185
" (surrendered for bounty).....	800	76	164	1,040
BIG GAME				
Caribou.....	120	296	29	445
Moose.....	114	19		133

There was a close season on beaver in the Mackenzie District during 1928-29. The 970 beaver pelts listed above as traded, represent pelts held over by traders from the previous season and pelts secured in Keewatin District. The other 2,391 pelts were those of beaver taken by Indians and Eskimos under special regulation and surrendered to the Government.

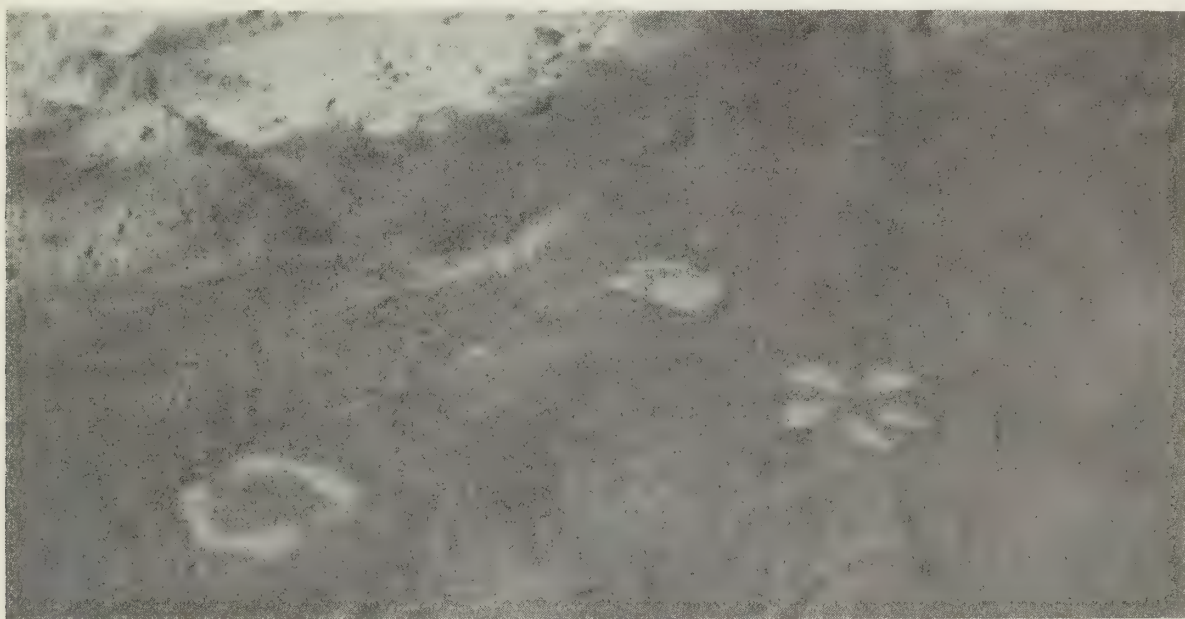
Protected birds reported as taken under licences include 942 ducks, 43 wild geese, 343 grouse, 672 ptarmigan, and 87 prairie chickens.

*Buffalo.*—The warden service of Wood Buffalo park was maintained at full strength throughout the past year. It is estimated that there are now about



10,000 buffalo in this area. The herds wintered well and those animals recently transported from Buffalo national park at Wainwright, Alberta, and liberated with the native animals appear to be firmly established in their new habitat. A few aged buffalo, outcasts from the different herds, were slaughtered and the meat was distributed among needy native families, native boarding schools, and hospitals in the adjacent areas.

*Musk-ox.*—The original large herds of musk-oxen which formerly roamed over the northern part of Canada have been so reduced that now, according to the latest estimates, approximately only 13,000 remain, the majority of which are to be found on the islands north of the mainland. Reports of Branch field officers indicate that there are about 250 musk-oxen in the Thelon Game Sanctuary. These animals are fully protected.



Footprints of Wild Animals.—Picture taken in Wood Buffalo Park showing footprints of three wild animals: buffalo, left; bear, centre; and wolf, right.

*Caribou.*—Large herds were observed in the tundra area north and east of Great Slave lake by field officers of the Branch as they were returning by aeroplane from Bathurst inlet last fall. This was evidently the usual seasonal migration of the herds in this part of the North.

*Beaver.*—The Order in Council providing for a close season for beaver in the Mackenzie District was modified to enable needy Indians and Eskimos to take a limited number for food during 1928-29, conditional on the pelts being surrendered to the Government, in exchange for which credit at local trading posts was given. The returns indicate that 2,391 beaver were taken under this authority. The regulation providing a total close season on beaver in the Mackenzie District is now being enforced.

*Muskrat.*—The number of muskrat skins traded increased from 154,648 during 1927-28 to 248,081 during 1928-29. It would seem that the muskrat cycle has now reached its highest peak. These animals are reported to be very numerous in the Mackenzie delta. This large area is a splendid muskrat habitat and the field officers report that the large number of pelts taken from that area during the last hunting season has made no apparent decrease in the muskrat population, and that it is doubtful if the number taken was equivalent to the natural increase.

*Wolf.*—During the year 1928-29 warrants were issued covering the payment of bounties at the rate of \$30 per animal for the destruction of 1,040 wolves. This bounty is paid upon the surrender of the wolf pelt to the Crown



by the person who kills the animal. In addition to the above, 185 wolf pelts were sold to traders, making a total of 1,225 wolves destroyed during the year 1928-29. This is a decrease as compared with the figures shown for the previous year and might indicate that the new system of payment of bounty has encouraged the hunters to greater activity and that the number of wolves in the Northwest Territories has already been materially reduced. The pelts surrendered to the Government for bounty were sold by auction in Montreal.

*Coyote.*—On March 11, 1929, Order in Council No. 418 was passed authorizing payment of \$15 bounty on each coyote killed in the Northwest Territories and in that portion of the province of Alberta within the boundaries of the Wood Buffalo park, conditional on the pelt of the animal being surrendered to the Crown. This order became effective on July 1, 1929.



A view of ranger cabins in Wood Buffalo Park, Northwest Territories. An efficient warden service is maintained in Wood Buffalo Park by the North West Territories and Yukon Branch.

Revenue

The revenue collected under the *Northwest Game Act* for the fiscal year 1929-30 was as follows:—

Hunting licences.. . . .	\$18,952 95
Trading licences.. . . .	7,373 10
Bird licences.. . . .	55 00
Fur Farm licences.. . . .	37 00
Trading Post permits.. . . .	43 00
Sale of wolf pelts.. . . .	39,465 60
Fur Export tax.. . . .	758 70
Fines and forfeitures.. . . .	75 00
Total.. . . .	<u>\$66,760 35</u>

This is an increase of \$15,619.31 over the amount received during the previous year.

*Licences.*—Returns showing the issue of the following licences were received during the fiscal year 1929-30:—

	Number
Hunting: Resident.. . . .	309
Non-resident British.. . . .	192
Non-resident non-British.. . . .	50
Trading: Resident.. . . .	142
Non-resident British.. . . .	39
Non-resident non-British.. . . .	6
Game Bird licences.. . . .	11
Fur Farm licences.. . . .	8



*Violations of Act.*—There were six prosecutions for violation of the *North-west Game Act* and three convictions during the year 1929-30.

#### PERMITS

Permits were issued or dealt with as indicated below:—

Purpose	Number
To establish trading posts.. . . . .	30
To take and export mammals for propagation purposes.. . . . .	3
To take mammals for propagation purposes during the open season (issued to holders of fur-farm licences).. . . . .	10
To trap and hunt fur-bearers, other than buffalo, in Wood Buffalo park.	312
To render <i>Migratory Bird Act</i> permits operative in the Northwest Territories (countersigned).. . . . .	15
To take specimens of mammals and non-migratory birds for scientific purposes.. . . . .	8
To import liquor for medicinal purposes.. . . . .	435
Explorers and Scientists permits—to permit the holder to enter the Northwest Territories for exploration or scientific purposes.. . .	8

#### FUR EXPORT TAX ORDINANCE

The Fur Export Tax Ordinance was assented to by the Commissioner in Council of the Northwest Territories on May 7, 1929. It provides for the collecting of a tax on furs exported from the Northwest Territories and became effective on December 31, 1929. Up to March 31, the end of the fiscal year 1929-30, the amount of tax collected under the provisions of this ordinance was \$758.70. The furs on which this tax was levied were nearly all exported by aeroplane as the regular seasonal movement of furs since the tax became effective had scarcely commenced.

#### WOOD BUFFALO PARK

The warden service was maintained at full strength throughout the year. The several wardens who patrol the park estimate that the annual increase of the buffalo is from twenty to twenty-five per cent, and report that the animals are in excellent condition. Slight damage has been reported to the grazing grounds of the buffalo in certain places due to new dams erected by beavers, causing the overflow of several streams. This is conclusive evidence that the beaver in the park are increasing.

During the summer of 1929 a new telephone line was constructed from Hay Camp to Pine lake, a distance of 40½ miles. This brings the total milage in the park up to 143 miles, connecting the superintendent's office at Fort Smith with the wardens' cabins and the cabins with each other. Two new cabins were constructed during the year. One is located on Jackfish river and the other on Nyarling river. A wagon road was completed from Hay Camp to Pine lake. Other roads were under construction throughout the park during the year. Several bridges had to be constructed because of higher water in various streams.

The warden service is equipped with eight portable pumps, each supplied with 2,000 feet of hose for fire-suppression purposes. This equipment is kept in first-class condition and is placed at strategic points throughout the park. At the end of the fiscal year the park service had forty-nine sled-dogs for use in winter patrol.

#### LANDS AND TIMBER

*Disposal of Lands.*—Practically the only lands disposed of in the Northwest Territories are lots in the various settlements that have been acquired by Roman Catholic and Anglican missions, fur traders and transportation com-



panies in connection with their several undertakings, and lots for residence purposes and gardens. There are no regulations in force making provision for the acquiring of homesteads as in the Prairie Provinces, but lands suitable for agricultural purposes may be acquired by purchase after being surveyed.

The Northwest Territories Hay and Grazing Regulations make provision for the issuing of permits to cut hay on vacant Crown lands, and for the issuing of grazing leases for a period not exceeding twenty-five years. Temporary use of certain lands may be acquired under a licence of occupation. At the end of the year four grazing leases and five licences of occupation were in good standing. Two lots were reserved at Norman as a site for the erection of a radio station.



Spruce logs cut in the vicinity of Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. Local white spruce is the source of nearly all lumber used in Mackenzie District.

*Administration of Timber.*—Under the Timber Regulations free permits may be granted to educational, religious, and charitable institutions to cut fire-killed or dry timber for fuel purposes, the quantity not to exceed one hundred cords in a permit year. Fixed dues are charged on timber cut for other purposes and the total revenue derived from the disposal of Crown timber as saw-material, building logs, and cordwood during the year was \$3,584.85.

#### PURCHASE OF REINDEER HERD

In 1919 a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the possibilities of the reindeer and musk-ox industry in the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of Canada. In its report, issued in 1922, the commission recommended, among other things, that small experimental reindeer herds be established in a number of localities which might, after departmental investigation, be found suitable for such purpose. Acting on these recommendations, the Dominion Government, through the North West Territories and Yukon Branch of the Department of the Interior, employed experienced northern botanists to investigate during 1926-27-28 the possibilities of certain areas in Mackenzie District where caribou formerly grazed in large numbers but were no longer to be found.

This investigation indicated that the proposal to establish reindeer herds in the Northwest Territories appeared well advised. The Dominion Government



immediately took the necessary steps to acquire an initial herd of animals. By Order in Council of May 1, 1929, the Minister of the Interior was authorized to purchase 3,000 head of reindeer in Alaska, where semi-domesticated reindeer have been bred for many years. Under the terms of a contract which was made subsequently, the vendors agreed to select this number from the largest and most virile animals in their possession, and to deliver them at a location east of the Mackenzie delta. In the fall of 1929, one of the Branch's special investigators, who had made the preliminary field investigations in this connection, was sent to Nome, Alaska, to represent the Department in the selection of the reindeer being purchased. He spent two months on this work and witnessed the start of the "drive" of the animals on their way to Canada. Arrangements for the reception and care of the reindeer on their arrival at the Mackenzie delta were begun before the end of the fiscal year and will proceed during the summer of 1930. The necessary buildings and corrals will be erected and other arrangements made.

#### TRANSPORTATION

*Roads.*—As yet the only road in the Northwest Territories on which the Branch has expended monies other than in Wood Buffalo park, is that leading from the settlement of Fort Smith to the steamboat landing at the foot of the river bank. This road, which was very steep and difficult of travel, was improved during the year.

*Aids to Navigation.*—The District Agent at Fort Smith, acting for the Department of Marine and Fisheries, set out buoys as usual in the spring at the mouth of Slave river and on Great Slave lake, and took them up at the close of navigation.

*Landing Fields.*—Preliminary steps were taken to assist in the preparation of temporary landing places for winter aircraft and for dockage for hydroplanes landing near the principal settlements. The matter of providing permanent landing fields received consideration.

#### MAIL AND RADIO

*Improved Mail Service.*—The Post Office Department of Canada maintained the following post offices in Mackenzie District—Fort Smith, Resolution, Hay River, Providence, Simpson, Wrigley, Norman, Good Hope, Arctic Red River, McPherson, and Aklavik. A post office was also maintained at Herschel, Herschel island, Yukon Territory. During the season of open navigation these offices, as far north as Simpson, were provided with a weekly mail service. North of Simpson the summer schedule of 1929 called for seven mails to Wrigley and Norman, six to Good Hope, five to Arctic Red River, McPherson, and Aklavik, and three to Herschel. Arrangements were made by the Post Office Department for the carrying of occasional mails by the Hudson's Bay Company to Rae and Liard. Way sacks for the exchange of mails between intermediate points were provided.

In November, 1929, the Post Office Department inaugurated a winter air mail service to Mackenzie River offices. A flying base was established at McMurray for this work. The announced schedule called for a weekly service between November 26, 1929, and April 8, 1930, to Chipewyan, Fitzgerald, Fort Smith, and Resolution. Hay River, Providence, and Simpson were to receive six mails and Wrigley, Norman, Good Hope, Arctic Red River, McPherson, Aklavik, and Herschel three mails during this period. Outgoing mail was to be carried on all return trips of the planes.

*Radio Stations operated.*—The following stations in the Mackenzie-Yukon radio system were operated throughout the year: Edmonton, in Alberta; Fort



Smith, Resolution, Simpson, and Aklavik, in Mackenzie District; and Dawson and Mayo, in Yukon. That at Herschel was operated during the summer months.



Wireless station at Aklavik, Northwest Territories.

*Inauguration of Daily Bulletin.*—For several years the residents of Mackenzie District have had the great benefit of a system of wireless communication, but it was felt that something more could be done with this equipment. With the co-operation of the Department of National Defence, arrangements were perfected during the past year whereby every day one of the officers of the Department of the Interior at Edmonton prepares a 500-word bulletin of news of special interest to northern residents and this is broadcast to the receiving stations in the North. The bulletins thus received are posted at the local offices of the North West Territories and Yukon Branch where they may be read by everybody. Although in use only a short time, many messages of appreciation of this service have been received from the north country.

#### EDUCATION

*Aid to Mission Schools.*—The Department of the Interior has no public school system in Mackenzie District but grants for educational purposes are made to the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, both of which maintain day and boarding schools for white and native children in connection with their missions.

*Schools Operated by Missions.*—The Anglican Church operated during the year, a boarding school for Indian and Eskimo children at Hay River, a day school at Simpson, a day school at McPherson, a day school at Aklavik, and a day school at the mouth of Coppermine river. A boarding school for Eskimo children was established recently at Shingle Point, Yukon Territory, on the Arctic coast.

The Roman Catholic Church operated a day school at Fort Smith, a boarding school for Indian and half-breed children at Resolution, a similar boarding school at Providence, a day school at Simpson, a summer day school at Wrigley, a day school at Good Hope, and a boarding school for Indian and Eskimo children at Aklavik. In addition to these schools, provision was made for the holding of classes for children temporarily gathered in the vicinity of any point where there is a mission.



## LAW AND ORDER

*Royal Canadian Mounted Police Establishment.*—Law and order were efficiently maintained throughout the year by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The establishment of this force in the Northwest Territories consists of between eighty-five and ninety officers and men distributed among more than twenty widely separated posts. With a highly organized staff of picked men placed in these strategically located posts, this force was able to cope adequately with the situation. A minimum of crime was reported throughout the year.

*Patrols by the Police.*—An outstanding feature of the work performed by this force is the patrol system. At convenient times during the year—both summer and winter—members of the various detachments journey back and forth on long patrols to keep in touch with each other, to exchange mail, and to visit natives, trappers, and traders along the way or in outlying sections of the country assigned to each detachment. In this way a close touch is kept on general conditions and the natives are made to feel that the Government has an interest in their welfare. The reports of many of these long patrols, especially those made by dog-team during the depth of winter, involving hundreds of miles of travel across unexplored areas, make most absorbing reading and are of great value in adding to the general knowledge of the country.

The most outstanding patrol of the past year was that made in the Arctic archipelago by Inspector A. H. Joy. On March 12, 1929, Inspector Joy left the detachment at Dundas Harbour on the south coast of Devon island with Constable Taggart and one Eskimo and two dog-teams as his main support, and Constable Hamilton and another Eskimo with a third dog-team as reinforcements for a few days. On May 31 he arrived at Bache Peninsula detachment on the east coast of Ellesmere island, after having made a successful patrol of over 1,700 miles in 81 days that took his little party by a circuitous route over a vast area of the northerly part of the Canadian Arctic archipelago. The following islands were visited on the patrol: Cornwallis, Bathurst, Melville, Edmund Walker, Lougheed, King Christain, Ellef Ringes, Cornwall, and Axel Heiberg. On this patrol Inspector Joy made many side excursions to examine interior parts of the islands visited, in some instances erecting cairns to mark his visits.



All Saints' hospital, Aklavik, conducted by the Anglican Mission.



*Court Proceedings.*—During the summer of 1929, Hon. Lucien Dubuc of Edmonton, Stipendiary Magistrate for the Northwest Territories, journeyed down the Mackenzie river with a full court and at the principal posts disposed of the docket of cases awaiting trial.

*Appointments.*—The following official appointments were made during the year: four coroners (including Dr. R. D. Martin at Coppermine and Dr. H. A. Stuart at Pangnirtung), ten notaries public (reappointed), four justices of the peace, and twenty-five commissioners for taking affidavits.

## YUKON

### YUKON COUNCIL

*Personnel of Council.*—The members of Council who were elected on August 29, 1928, for a three-year term are: W. L. Phelps, Whitehorse District; Frank Carscallen, Mayo District; and A. T. Taddie, Dawson District.

*Session of Council.*—The Yukon Council was in session from June 4 to June 12, 1929. There were some amendments made to existing ordinances, and ordinances were passed providing for the payment of a bounty on wolves and coyotes, and also to regulate the hours of labour in placer mining operations.

Under the ordinance to provide for the payment of bounty on wolves and coyotes the sum of \$2,125.05 was expended. This small amount was due to the fact that it was not possible to have information as to the payment of a bounty transmitted to outlying districts in time for the payment of such bounty during the year; and further, many pelts have been shipped outside by the trappers themselves. It is anticipated, however, that a considerable increase will be noted in the coming year.



The Administration building, Dawson, Yukon Territory.

### LANDS AND TIMBER

*Land Administration.*—The revenue collected from Dominion lands in the form of rentals, and office, homestead entry, and hay permit fees, amounted to \$3,297.58. There were no sales of land. Land rentals accounted for \$3,268.58; office fees for \$16.50; homestead entry, \$10; and hay permits, \$2.50.

*Timber Administration.*—The kinds and quantities of the various classes of timber cut were as follows: saw-timber, on which dues were paid, cut under permit 105,908 feet board measure; fuel-wood cut under authority of permit



14,560 cords; fuel-wood cut without authority of permit and on which seizure dues were paid, 54 cords; logs cut without authority of permit, 384 linear feet; fuel-wood cut on timber berths on which dues were paid, 1,377 $\frac{3}{4}$  cords.

The total revenue derived from Crown timber amounted to \$7,807.38; made up of royalty, \$688.90; permits, \$7,056.80; and seizure dues, \$61.68.

#### AGRICULTURE

The season was favourable for crops with abundant moisture, which resulted in well matured crops of an excellent quality.

#### BIG GAME

Big game was reported as being very plentiful. There were several parties of big game hunters in the Territory last year, and they were very enthusiastic with the results of their hunt.

#### PUBLIC WELFARE

*Hospitals and Public Health.*—The hospitals at Whitehorse, Dawson, and Mayo were maintained in their usual state of efficiency and the health of the residents of the Territory has been excellent.

*Education.*—The number of pupils in the different schools remained at about the same level as last year. Public and high schools were maintained at Dawson, Whitehorse, Mayo, and Keno, and assisted schools at Carcross and Tagish.

*Law and Order.*—Law and order were well maintained throughout the Territory by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and frequent patrols have been made to the outlying districts.

#### TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

*Railway and Steamboat Service.*—The White Pass and Yukon Railway was operated throughout the year between tidewater at Skagway, Alaska, and the head of navigation on the Yukon river at Whitehorse, Yukon. Steamboats were operated between Whitehorse and Dawson, Dawson and Mayo, and Dawson and lower river points during the open season.

*Tourist Traffic.*—The number of tourists visiting Dawson during the season of navigation on the Yukon river and especially during the months of July and August was greater than during any previous year. The popularity of the Yukon trip is steadily increasing. Many tourists went as far north as Carcross and then turned aside to visit Atlin in northern British Columbia. Big game hunters were as active as ever in the Kluane, MacMillan and other favourite regions.

*Aviation and Landing Fields.*—The use of aircraft as a means of rapid transport and for carrying mails has increased greatly. Landing fields for aeroplanes have been prepared at Whitehorse, Dawson, Mayo, and Keno, also an emergency field at Minto, which was constructed by the Treadwell Yukon Company.

In winter, planes land on the frozen surface of the rivers in front of Dawson, Mayo, and Whitehorse, as this plan is more convenient to the settlements and the ice makes a better field for winter use than the land. It is also possible to land at Dawson, Mayo, and Carcross in the summer with pontoons, as there is sufficient depth of practically still water to make successful landings. The landing field at Dawson is situated at the mouth of Bonanza creek on mining ground leased by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation, Limited.



*Roads, Bridges, and Public Works.*—The roads in the Territory were maintained in as fair a condition as possible consistent with the amount of money available for such work.

Last year a steel bridge for erection across the Mayo river at Minto bridge, to replace the old wooden structure, was ordered from Vancouver and transported to the mouth of the Stewart river. It is the intention to have the bridge material transferred to Mayo at the opening of navigation and, if possible, arrangements will be made for its construction during the coming season. On account of the very heavy tonnage of ore which passes over the present wooden bridge, it is considered advisable to replace it with the new structure as soon as funds are available.



A scene in the southern part of Yukon territory.

*Mails, Telegraphs, and Radio.*—The usual mail service was continued throughout the year. The old Hazelton-Dawson land telegraph line was in operation, and radio stations were operated at Dawson and Mayo throughout the year, and at Herschel during the summer season.























